

S. CON. RES. 109

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas twenty-four Canadian citizens were killed as a result of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States;

Whereas the people of Gander, Newfoundland, provided food, clothing, and shelter to thousands of stranded passengers and temporary aircraft parking to thirty-nine planes diverted from United States airspace as a result of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States;

Whereas the Government of Canada, as led by former Prime Ministers Jean Jacques Chretien and Paul Martin and continued by Prime Minister Stephen Harper, has provided humanitarian, diplomatic, and security personnel on the invitation of the Government of Afghanistan since 2001;

Whereas Canada has pledged \$650,000,000 in development aid to Afghanistan;

Whereas Afghanistan is Canada's largest recipient of bilateral development aid;

Whereas Canada has stationed approximately 2,300 defense personnel who comprise Task Force Afghanistan, in order to improve security in southern Afghanistan, particularly in the province of Kandahar;

Whereas Canada has over 70 diplomatic officers worldwide who are dedicated to growing democracy and equality in Afghanistan;

Whereas at least seventeen Canadians have made the ultimate sacrifice in operations in Afghanistan since September 11, 2001;

Whereas Canada's commitment to the Government of Afghanistan, under the leadership of Prime Minister Hamid Karzai, was due to expire in February 2007;

Whereas on May 17, 2006, the Government of Canada led by Prime Minister Stephen Harper requested that the Canadian House of Commons extend Canada's commitment to peace and security operations in Afghanistan;

Whereas on May 17, 2006, the Canadian Parliament voted to extend peace and security operations in Afghanistan until 2009, to increase its development assistance by \$310 million, and to build a permanent and secure embassy in Afghanistan to replace its current facility; and

Whereas this was an important sign of the renewed commitment of numerous United States allies to Afghanistan:
Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) commends the Government of Canada for
4 its renewed and long-term commitment to Afghani-
5 stan;

6 (2) commends the leadership of former Cana-
7 dian Prime Ministers Jean Jacques Chretien and
8 Paul Martin and current Prime Minister Stephen

1 Harper for their steadfast commitment to democ-
2 racy, human rights, and freedom throughout the
3 world;

4 (3) commends the Government of Canada for
5 working to secure a democratic Afghanistan;

6 (4) commends the Government of Canada's
7 commitment to reducing poverty, aiding the counter-
8 narcotics efforts through counterterrorism and
9 counterinsurgency campaigns, and ensuring a peace-
10 ful and terror-free Afghanistan;

11 (5) commends the Government of Canada for
12 its three-pronged commitment to Afghanistan: diplo-
13 macy, development, and defense; and

14 (6) expresses the gratitude and appreciation of
15 the United States for Canada's enduring friendship
16 and leadership in Afghanistan.

Passed the Senate July 13, 2006.

Attest:

Secretary.

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

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Commending the Government of Canada for its renewed commitment to Afghanistan.